

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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EUR-12 IO-10 /080 W

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R 051308Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6247

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EG SU XF

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF SADAT'S SEPTEMBER 4 SPEECH

REF: CAIRO 8717 AND CAIRO 8718

1. CAIRO FRONT PAGES SEPTEMBER 5 ARE TOTALLY GIVEN OVER TO NEWS RELATED TO PRESIDENT'S SPEECH OF PREVIOUS EVENING IN WHICH HE REPLIED TO ARAB AND SOVIET CRITICISM OF NEW SINAI DISENGAGEMENT. BANNER HEADLINES HIGHLIGHT TWO MAIN POINTS: A) EGYPTIAN COMMITMENT TO SYRIA AND PALESTINE IS ABSOLUTE AND B) SOVIET ATTITUDE IS FLAGRANTLY PROVOCATIVE.

2. EDITORIALS DO NOT DISCUSS WHAT SADAT CALLED PERFIDITY OF SOVIET "DEVILS". AHRAH AND GUMHURIYYA DISCUSS DANGER OF ISRAELI PROCRASTINATION AND AKHBAR DESCRIBES ARAB UPROAR AGAINST AGREEMENT AS REVIVAL OF POLITICAL AUCTION MARKET WHICH OCTOBER WAR WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE ELIMINATED. ABSENCE OF COMMENT ON SADAT'S SLASHING ATTACK ON SOVIETS IS CLEARLY RESULT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOE GUIDANCE AND WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE A DESIRE NOT TO

ESCALATE SOVIET-EGYPTIAN BAD FEELING PRIOR TO BEGINNING OF WORKING GROUP MEETING IN GENEVA ON TUESDAY. AKHBAR, REPORTING SIGNING OF AGREEMENT YESTERDAY IN GENEVA, SAYS USG, AT GOE SUGGESTION, DID NOT ATTEND IN ORDER GIVE SOVIETS CHANCE TO RECONSIDER THEIR POSTION BEFORE TUESDAY MEETINGS.

3. PRESS DOES NOT PLAY DOWN CONTINUING ARAB OUTCRY AGAINST AGREEMENT. PAPERS REPORT PLO IS ARRANGING TO CONVENE MEETINGS TO ATTACK EGYPT, INCLUDING CENTRAL COMMITTEE SESSION SCHEDULED FOR DAMASCUS ON TUESDAY. WIRE SERVICE TIEM REPORTS GOJ SPOKESMAN DENYING JORDANIANS HAVE OFFICIALLY WELCOMED AGREEMENT.

4. JOINT ASU/PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ADOPTED FOLLOWING SADAT SPEECH IS REPORTED IN FULL. IT INCLUDES TWO OPERATIVE SECTIONS: A) UNANIMOUS EXPRESSION OF ABSOLUTE SUPPORT AND B) WARNING THAT REJECTION FRONT IS PLAYING ISRAELI GAME WHICH AIMS TO SPLIT ARAB UNITY. JOINT STATEMENT ALSO NOTES POINTEDLY THAT AGREEMENT REPRESENTS STEP TOWARD JUST PEACE, AND IS NEITHER FINAL PEACE SETTLEMENT NOR END OF BELLIGERENCY. ALTHOUGH AGREEMENT IS, AS PRESIDENT HAD SAID, INSUFFICIENT, EGYPT ACCEPTS IT "TO PROVE TO WORLD ITS DESIRE FOR PEACE." PRESS ALSO REPORTS SADAT HAS RECEIVED CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAMS FROM ALL OVER EGYPT.

5. ALL PAPERS NOTE PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT MARWAN IS CURRENTLY TOURING GULF TO DELIVER MESSAGES FROM SADAT EXPLAINING AGREEMENT.

6. AS FOOTNOTE TO OUR REPORTING CABLES ON SPEECH (REFTELS), IT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO ADDRESSEES THAT EGYPTIANS WHO WATCHED SADAT'S PERFORMANCE ON TELEVISION TELL US THEY HAVE NEVER SEEN HIM SO WROUGH UP. DURING SECOND PART OF SPEECH, IN WHICH HE SPOKE EXTEMPORANEOUSLY, HE READ FROM BA'ATH PARTY DENUNCIATORY DOCUMENTS AND THEN THREW THEM OFF THE ROSTER IN ANGER. VISUAL IMAGE WAS OF ANGRY MAN IN NO MOOD TO BROOK OPPOSITION TO WHAT HE CONSIDERS POLICY WHICH IS IN BEST INTEREST NOT ONLY OF EGYPT BUT OF ENTIRE ARAB WORLD, SYRIA AND "PALESTINE" IN PARTICULAR.
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